ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE BULLETIN

We are a Christ-centered community that welcomes all to worship, to pray, to serve others and to learn our Orthodox faith

Click image for pdf version

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

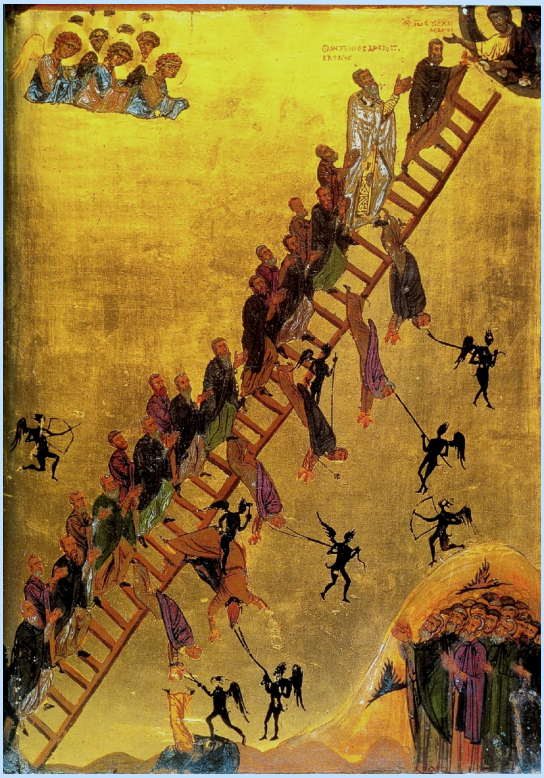
March 22nd

Sunday of St. John Climacus

8:00AM
ORTHROS

9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY

ATTENDANCE
March 15th: 133 people
2024 Average: 140 people
Full Attendance Report



Click the icon to read about the Saint(s).

Digital Chant Stand
Services Online
click on calendar date
for reading of service

ALSO ONLINE

Narthex Servers:

ANNA
and
VASILIS

Chanters:

CHARLIE MARGE
TERI STEVENS

Trisagion Service:

Parents of John and Anthony Proakis and Gloria Doukakis

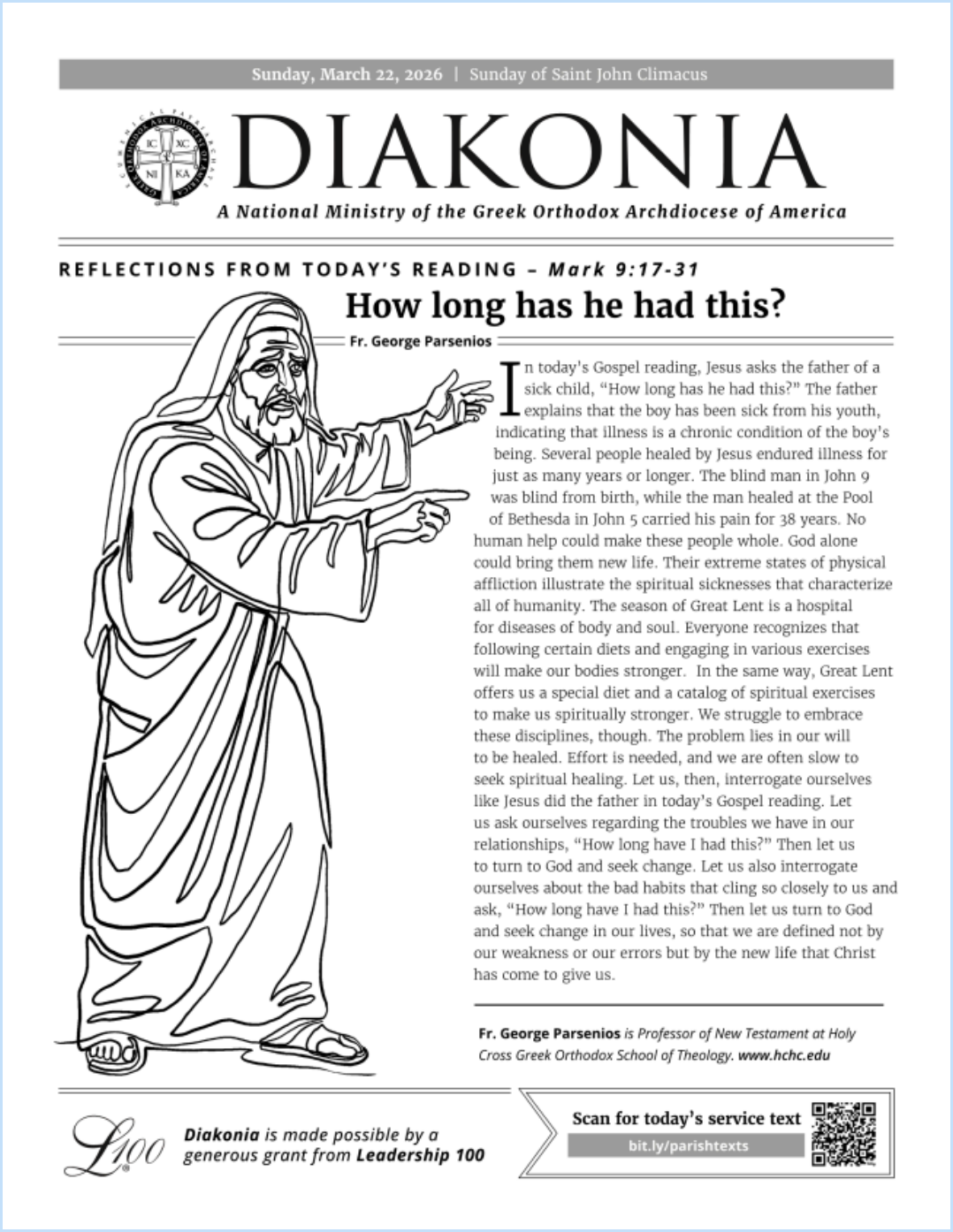
Parents of Felia Proakis

Husband of Gloria Doukakis

Fellowship Hour hosted by the **Proakis and Doukakis Families**.
We wish to thank the **Gray Family** for last week's.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all those who have hosted and sponsored the Fellowship Hour for 2025 and previous years. You have the appreciation and gratitude of our parishioners for adding to the enjoyment of each Sunday's reception. God Bless!

Encourage a friend or relative to join you in Church this Sunday, and expand the body of believers who are fully committed to their faith!



Sunday, March 22, 2026 | Sunday of Saint John Climacus

DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING – *Mark 9:17-31*

How long has he had this?

Fr. George Parsenios

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus asks the father of a sick child, "How long has he had this?" The father explains that the boy has been sick from his youth, indicating that illness is a chronic condition of the boy's being. Several people healed by Jesus endured illness for just as many years or longer. The blind man in John 9 was blind from birth, while the man healed at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5 carried his pain for 38 years. No human help could make these people whole. God alone could bring them new life. Their extreme states of physical affliction illustrate the spiritual sicknesses that characterize all of humanity. The season of Great Lent is a hospital for diseases of body and soul. Everyone recognizes that following certain diets and engaging in various exercises will make our bodies stronger. In the same way, Great Lent offers us a special diet and a catalog of spiritual exercises to make us spiritually stronger. We struggle to embrace these disciplines, though. The problem lies in our will to be healed. Effort is needed, and we are often slow to seek spiritual healing. Let us, then, interrogate ourselves like Jesus did the father in today's Gospel reading. Let us ask ourselves regarding the troubles we have in our relationships, "How long have I had this?" Then let us to turn to God and seek change. Let us also interrogate ourselves about the bad habits that cling so closely to us and ask, "How long have I had this?" Then let us turn to God and seek change in our lives, so that we are defined not by our weakness or our errors but by the new life that Christ has come to give us.

Fr. George Parsenios *is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.* ***www.hchc.edu***

L100 ***Diakonia*** *is made possible by a generous grant from* ***Leadership 100***

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts

Reflections from Today's Reading

PRAYER LIST

Printable Version

Click on the list above to offer your prayers for those in need of prayer

PRAYER IN TIME OF NEED

PRAYER FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH DEPRESSION

Jesus goes before us

READ MORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Lexington, MA

LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sat., February 14 - 9 am
Saturday of the Souls
Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 15
Meatfare Sunday

Saturday, February 21
Saturday of the Souls
Orthros 8 am & Divine Liturgy 9 am

Sunday, February 22
Cheesefare Sunday
Forgiveness Vespers
Following Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, February 25 - 6 pm
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, February 27 - 6 pm
Salutations to the Theotokos
Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk

Monday, March 2 - 6 pm
Great Compline

Wednesday, March 4 - 6 pm
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 6 - 6 pm
Salutations to the Theotokos
Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk

Saturday, March 7 - 9 am to 3 pm
Retreat led by Fr. George Parsenios
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
55 Emmonsdale Rd., West Roxbury, MA

Monday, March 9 - 6 pm
Great Compline

Wednesday, March 11 - 6 pm
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 13 - 6 pm
Salutations to the Theotokos
Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk

Monday, March 16 - 6 pm
Great Compline

Wednesday, March 18 - 6 pm
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 20 - 6 pm
Salutations to the Theotokos
Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk

Wednesday, March 23 - 6 pm
Great Compline

Tuesday, March 24
Feast of the Annunciation Vespers
in either Woburn or the Cathedral

Wednesday, March 25
Feast of the Annunication Liturgy
in either Woburn or the Cathedral

Friday, March 27 - 6 pm
Akathist to the Theotokos
Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk

Monday, March 30 - 6 pm
Great Compline

Saturday, April 4
Lazarus Saturday
Beginning of Holy Week

Greek Independence Day Presentation

Greek Independence Day presentation for Sunday 3/29 after church. There will be poems and readings in Greek and English and 3 dances!

Reminder to submit your volunteer hours!

To date collectively an impressive 1,711 hours of your time has been submitted! All this volunteer work shows that St. Nicholas is truly is a caring community. This service is part of the Lex250 collective goal of 250k hours honoring the 250th Anniversary of our Nation! Your volunteer hours are appreciated not only within our church community, but by the Lexington community that is home to St. Nicholas. Hours volunteered by all members of your household from April 1, 2025 through July 2026 not previously provided should be included.

Your name and hours served by all members of your household served should be sent to: dawn@dawnmckenna.org

10 APRIL 2026

Holy Friday

RETREAT

11 AM to 2 PM

We welcome you to come decorate the Kouvouklion
and there will be activities for the children.

Join

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Our Team

Homebuilding 2026
June 22 - June 29

Contact Nicholas Zervoglos at nzervoglos@gmail.com if you're interested.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR NOTES:

April 19th (April Vacation)

June 7th - Tentative last day of classes

MINISTRIES

Strategic Planning Update

(Click the Strategic Plan Implementation report below)

Strategic Plan Implementation Update
February 22, 2026

Religious Education	Co-Captains: Maria Decoulos and Judy Gray
Accomplishment	Finalized Religious Education Program for Sunday School. Established Target of 80% of Youth finishing the academic year (37 students).
Plan	Continue to track weekly attendance against the goal. Sunday School Teacher Development Program on Zoom on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Stewardship and Engagement	Co-Captains: Penelope Tzougros and Stephanie DeVasto
Accomplishments	Interviewing youth about what attracts them to come to church and what pushes them away from the church
Plan for Next Month	Complete evaluation of adult and youth stewardship programs 2/28 Finalize adult and youth stewardship program 3/28

Renovation Program	Co-Captains: Carol Bearse and Bob DeVasto
Accomplishments	Met with Meriam Hill Association on 2/14 and shared current plans and received positive feedback. The architect updated plans based on the Renovation Committee input. Finalizing capital campaign plan. Reviewed structure to share with contractor and identified no major issues.
Plan for Next Month	Schedule meeting with Town of Lexington to review schematic plans. Start fundraising process in March.

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Community Transformation Team

Good News: Moving Ahead

We are excited to inform you of our renovation progress. We have been meeting with our architect for the past 2 months and have the first phase of Design and Development (of the approved design) almost complete. Our next step is to meet with the town of Lexington for approval of the plans. This will happen mid March. We also have been meeting biweekly with our fundraiser, Nick Chakos.

Dawn also met with the Merriam Hill Association, our neighbors. The feedback about our renovation plans has been very positive. Thank you to all those parishioners who have been parking in the public lot a block away from St. Nicholas. For everyone's safety, please do not park on both sides of the street during this snowy winter.

Please check out our **website** where we provide all the latest information and developments regarding the transformation of our facility.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bearse Mackintosh.

Stewardship

February 2026

Happy New Year!!

I am happy to report the following data on our pledges/giving since January 1, 2026:

# of Pledges (indiv/fam)	Pledge amt (total)	# of indiv/ fam paid	Amt paid (total)	% Amt paid (total)	Remainder to goal
36	$100,432.00	68	$74,576.98	33.90%	$145,423.02

For the 2nd month in a row, we have not only pledged more but also received more donations compared to this time last year! I am so proud of the efforts we have made thus far - we are ⅓ of the way to our goal, something that took us until about April 2025!

Quick links:

- Want to sign up for a church ministry? Fill out this survey: https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/forms/8
- Want to submit a pledge? Go to https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/, log in, and follow the prompts under the "$ Giving" tab
- Want to give a donation?
  - OPTION 1: If you already have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/, log in, click Give Now (in the gray bar on the left of your screen), and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 2: If you don't have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/egiving and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 3: Mail in a check/cash to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA, 02420
- Questions? Contact stewardship@stnicholaslex.org

For those who have pledged and/or given thus far - THANK YOU!!

Alexis Papathanasiou (Dr. Alexis Zallas, DVM)
Stewardship Chair

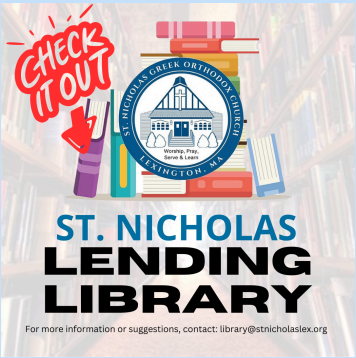
FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATE

Philoptochos

Click for the 2025-26 Philoptocos Meeting Schedule

St. Irene's Philoptocos Stewards as of February 15, 2026

Lending Library



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

Fellowship

REMINDER:

Spiritual Counsels of Saint Paisios (6 vol. set) now available! St. Paisios the New (1924-1994) was one of the most loved and revered Elders of our times. Living as a monk on Mount Athos, he spent his nights in prayer and his days guiding, consoling, healing, and giving spiritual rest to countless people who took shelter in him. The wise spiritual counsels of the Elder have been collected in these six volumes under the following titles: **With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man, Spiritual Awakening, Spiritual Struggle, Family Life, Passions and Virtues, On Prayer**.

Please email the **library** if you have any requests or questions, we'd love to hear from you.

Do you enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a piece of pastry following each Sunday's Divine Liturgy? Of course, you do. That's why we're asking those who have not sponsored a Sunday fellowship hour in a while to please sign up for the many opening dates available. We all like to chit-chat with our fellow parishioners with a coffee in-hand. So, please step forward. It's real easy…..all you need to bring is some pastry (nothing fancy) and a gallon of milk. The church supplies the rest (napkins, plates, cups, etc.). If you have questions, just call the church office.

Thanks much for answering this appeal. We all will appreciate and thank you.

Hey Ministry Leaders and eBulletin Contributors!

Keep your updates fresh and informative!

*Email any digital photos or updates to **rdiorio18@gmail.com** by noon on Friday, and they will appear in the electronic bulletin. Also be sure to copy **office@stnicholaslex.org** by Wednesday noon if you would like the content to appear in the paper bulletin.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

St. Irene's Philoptochos of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 5, 2026

St. Irene's Hall following Diving Liturgy

$35 Fish dinner
$10 Pasta dinner
5 years and under FREE

Make your reservations early! Limited seating.
Reservation & Payment deadline: March 30.

Catering by Dolphin Catering.
Make checks out to St. Irene's Philoptochos.
For more information, contact Anna Travias at annatravias@yahoo.com.

Join us for a parish

PASCHA POTLUCK

Picnic

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

FOLLOWING AGAPE VESPERS

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CA8A62FA46-62716006-pascha

All parishioners and extended family and friends are invited to celebrate the Resurrection together on Easter Sunday. Please use the link above or the signup in the church hall to RSVP and sign up to bring your favorite foods to share. We will provide the lamb!

Join us for

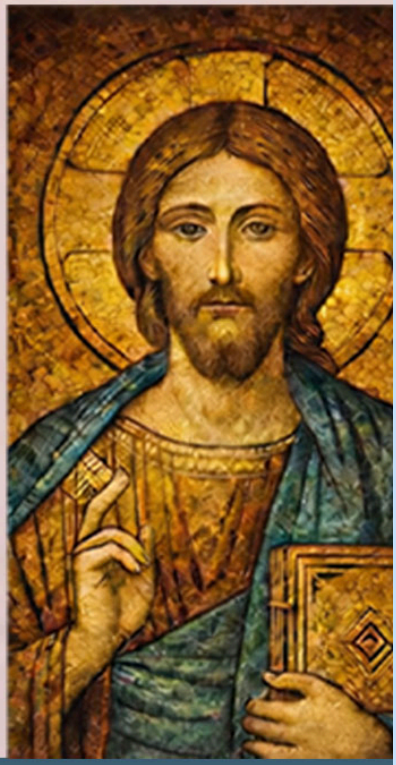
Igniting the Flame,

A Greek Orthodox Journey to Purpose

Led by Bill Marianes

FulFill Your Calling

The Way God Intented - Share Your Gifts and Discover True Joy



You'll Learn How To:

- Discover Your Divine Calling
- Utilize Your God-Given Gifts
- Grow Stewardship through Joyful Giving
- Help Parishioners Grow Towards God's Calling

Saturday April 25, 2026
9AM-3PM
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
17 Meriam St. Lexington MA, 02420
stewardship@st.nicholaslex.org

Light Breakfast 8:30AM & lunch served

Register via QR CODE

Use QR Code or Click Image to Sign Up

PLACE A BUSINESS AD?

If you are interested in placing an ad in our weekly bulletin, please contact the church office.

In addition, we welcome supporting you or loved ones who are fundraising for a cause, by publicizing your appeal.

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!